lamellæ crossing the interspaces transversely but fading out on the ridges; head-valve with minutely nodulous concentric ridges; tail-valve highest at the subcentral, not very prominent mucro, in front sculptured like the intermediate valves, behind the mucro like the head-valve. Length about 14, width 5·75, height 2·5 mm., in the dry state. The dry girdle about half a millimeter wide.

Specimens obtained by Mr. T. S. Oldroyd from a stone pulled up from about 75 fathoms in the Santa Barbara Channel off San Pedro, California.

This species, for which a section named in honor of Mr. Oldroyd is proposed, is very remarkable. The girdle recalls that of *Deshayesiella* Carpenter, but is extended in such a manner as to partly separate the shelly portions of the valves. The very callous surfaces of the interior, according to Mr. Pilsbry, are unique in the group. Most of the species of *Lepidopleurus* are comparatively thin, and though *L. cajetanus* is a solid shell, none of the species are as heavy as the present one in proportion to their size. The conspicuous and forwardly produced jugum is unique in the family. The type is in the National Museum, and will be figured later.

PATELLA (HELCIONISCUS) NIGRISQUAMATA REEVE.

BY CHAS. T. SIMPSON.

In the collection of the National Museum are twenty specimens of *Patella* bearing the above name received from Frederick Stearns, the U. S. Exploring Expedition, W. K. Fischer, and the Lea-Chamberlain Collection—the latter credited to "Dr. R." by Mr. Lea, and probably from Ruschenberger. One other specimen of the same name is in the museum from the Rich Collection without locality.

These vary from young shells less than an inch in diameter to those which are more than 3½ inches in length. There can be no doubt that the above name is correct, as all the specimens agree fairly well with Reeves' description and excellent figures in the Cohchologia Iconica (Vol. VIII, Patella, species 3, plate II, figs. 3^a and 3^b).

The species described as *P. boninensis* in the NAUTILUS (Nov., 1891, p. 79), was characterized by its author as having a large central muscular callus, and two diverging dark bands from the anerior head segment.

Our large series shows every possible variation in the development of these characters, from young specimens in which no scar or tails (for they look very much like squirrel tails) are visible, to old, solid shells with a heavy, snowy, swollen callus, and having these brown wings very strongly developed.

The same characters are seen in *Patella* (*Helcioniscus*) *argentata* Sowb., better known as *P. talcosa* Gld. *H. clypeater*, which Mr. Pilsbry places with *Nacella*, on account of slight differences in anatomical characters, but which, conchologically, seems closely allied to *P. argentata*, and in other species.

In short, there can be no doubt that this scar and the curious radiating brown lines are merely adult characters which are developed in quite a number of species. I quite agree with Mr. Geo. W. Taylor in believing that this species does not come from the west coast of South America, but is probably confined to the north-western part of the Indo-Pacific region.

THE VIRGINIA COLONY OF HELIX NEMORALIS.

BY T. D. A. COCKERELL, N. M. AGR. EXP. STA.

There appeared in the NAUTILUS, of Nov., 1889, a paper under the above title, setting forth some very interesting facts regarding the variations exhibited by a colony of *H. nemoralis* at Lexington, Va. Prof. J. H. Morrison, who collected the shells studied, took considerable interest in the matter at that time, and had gathered together a good deal of information additional to that given in the above-cited paper. I have, therefore, been quite disappointed not to see any publication by him on this subject, or any evidence that the colony has received further attention.

It is scarcely necessary to dwell on the extreme interest attaching to the history of this colony. Here we have a variable species introduced into a new country, and varying in a most extraordinary manner under the influence of the new environment. The peculiar variations are very numerous, though, in the main, tending entirely in one direction—to the splitting of the normal bands. Although the number of individuals thus varying is considerable, very few of such have exactly the same formula, whereas, several of the old European variations occur in numerous specimens.

It appears, in the highest degree, probable that these peculiar variations are congenital and not acquired during the lifetime of